

House File 2357 - Reprinted

HOUSE FILE 2357
BY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 610)

(As Amended and Passed by the House March 8, 2016)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to turtle harvesting in the state and including
2 effective date provisions.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 481A.67, Code 2016, is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 **481A.67 Seasons and limits — turtle harvesting.**

4 1. It is unlawful for a person, except as otherwise
5 expressly provided, to take, capture, or kill fish, frogs,
6 or turtles except during the open season established by the
7 commission. It is unlawful during open season to take in any
8 one day an amount in excess of the daily catch limit designated
9 for each variety or each locality, or have in possession any
10 variety of fish, frog, or turtle in excess of the possession
11 limit, or have in possession any frog, fish, or turtle at any
12 time under the minimum length or weight. The open season,
13 possession limit, daily catch limit, and the minimum length
14 or weight for each variety of fish, frog, or turtle shall be
15 established by rule of the department or commission under the
16 authority of sections 456A.24, 481A.38, 481A.39, and 482.1.

17 2. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,
18 the natural resource commission shall adopt rules pursuant to
19 chapter 17A establishing seasons and daily catch limits for the
20 noncommercial harvest of turtles in any waters of the state
21 pursuant to section 483A.28. Seasons established pursuant to
22 this subsection shall not apply to the noncommercial harvest of
23 snapping turtles.

24 3. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,
25 the natural resource commission shall adopt rules pursuant to
26 chapter 17A establishing seasons and daily catch limits for the
27 commercial harvest of turtles in any waters of the state.

28 4. Beginning no later than January 1, 2017, and ending no
29 earlier than January 1, 2021, the commission shall conduct a
30 review of the status of the turtle population in the state by
31 region, in cooperation with appropriate organizations and in
32 accordance with sound fish and wildlife management principles,
33 and shall report its recommendations to the general assembly
34 on whether restrictions on noncommercial and commercial turtle
35 harvesting in the state should be revised no later than June

1 30, 2021. This subsection is repealed effective July 1, 2021.

2 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT. This Act, being deemed of
3 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.